United Nations S/2003/1046

Security Council

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29 October 2003

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Letter dated 14 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I enclose the assessment of the United Kingdom presidency of the Security Council for September 2003 (see annex). This has been prepared on my own authority, but I have consulted other members of the Security Council before submitting it. I should be grateful if you would circulate it as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Emyr **Jones Parry**

03-58844 (E) 101103

Annex

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (September 2003)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Security Council fulfilled a busy programme in September. During the month, the Council established the United Nations Mission in Liberia to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed at Accra, lifted the sanctions on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and extended the mandates of UNMEE and UNAMSIL.

The Council met at ministerial level on 24 September to consider the item entitled "Justice and the rule of law: the United Nations role". The meeting was presided over by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Jack Straw, and by the Minister of State for International Development, Hilary Benn. The presidency's aim in bringing the subject to the Council, was to affirm the central importance of justice and the rule of law in the work of the United Nations and to begin a process of reflection and analysis on those issues, involving the whole United Nations system, so that the experience and expertise available in the international system could be drawn on more effectively in the future.

Africa

Burundi

The President of Burundi, Domitien Ndayizeye, addressed a private meeting of the Security Council on 22 September on developments in Burundi and on the regional summit of 15 September.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The members of the Security Council were briefed on 3 September by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on the handover from the European Union-led Interim Emergency Multinational Force in Bunia to a strengthened MONUC force. Full deployment of the Ituri brigade was due to take place by the end of October, after which MONUC would be in a position to reach out beyond Bunia. The Council members agreed on a statement to the press expressing concern at continuing hostilities in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, calling on all parties to support MONUC, and stressing the robust nature of the mandate of MONUC under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

Ethiopia and Eritrea

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Ethiopia and Eritrea, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, briefed the members of the Security Council on 10 September on the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The Council subsequently adopted resolution 1507 (2003), extending the mandate of UNMEE for a further six months, until 15 March 2004. On 29 September, the Council members discussed a

letter dated 19 September from the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, to the President of the Security Council, and heard a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on letters received by the Secretary-General from the leaders of the two countries.

Guinea-Bissau

On 15 September the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kolomoh, briefed the members of the Security Council on the coup d'état of 14 September in Guinea-Bissau. The Council members agreed on a statement to the press condemning the assumption of power through non-constitutional means and calling for the speedy restoration of constitutional order. On 29 September the Assistant Secretary-General updated the Council, and José Ramos Horta, Special Envoy of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking States, briefed the members on his visit to Guinea-Bissau. The members of the Council commended the continuing efforts of ECOWAS, the Community of Portuguese-Speaking States and the United Nations to keep the electoral process on track.

Liberia

On 16 September the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, Jacques Klein, briefed the Security Council on the situation in that country. Informal consultations followed, during which the Council members discussed the Secretary-General's recommendation to establish a United Nations mission. The Council held a private meeting on 15 September with Member States on the subject of possible troop contributions. The Council members also discussed the way forward with a range of non-governmental organizations on 9 September at an Arria-formula meeting.

After these preparatory discussions, the Security Council on 19 September in the presence of the Secretary-General unanimously adopted resolution 1509 (2003), by which it established the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for 12 months to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed at Accra.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

On 9 September the members of the Security Council considered the question of lifting sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which had been suspended in 1999 following the handover by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya of two suspects to stand trial for the bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie in December 1988. Later on the same day the Council formally agreed to delay its decision on the lifting of sanctions until 12 September. On 12 September the Security Council adopted resolution 1506 (2003) lifting the sanctions and removing the item from its agenda.

Sierra Leone

The Security Council held a private meeting on 16 September with countries contributing troops to UNAMSIL. The Council members were briefed on 17 October by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi. They discussed the drawdown of UNAMSIL and progress against the benchmarks for this. The Council on 19 September in the presence of the Secretary-

General unanimously adopted resolution 1508 (2003), by which it extended the mandate of UNAMSIL for six months, until 30 March 2004.

Asia

Iraq

On 5 September the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, announced to the members of the Security Council a retrenchment of the United Nations presence in Iraq in the light of the bombing on 19 August of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad. He said that the United Nations would keep the decision under review and return staff when the security situation permitted. The Council members expressed their understanding of the Secretariat's position.

Oil-for-food programme

The members of the Security Council were briefed on 29 September by the Executive Director of the Iraq Programme, Benon Sevan, on preparations for the termination of the oil-for-food programme by 21 November. They agreed that the Iraq sanctions Committee should monitor developments closely, and that the Chairman should report regularly on the Committee's discussions.

UNMOVIC

The Acting Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Demetrius Perricos, briefed the members of the Security Council on 4 September on the work of UNMOVIC. The Council members expressed their support for the work of UNMOVIC as set out in its fourteenth quarterly report, and noted the need to review its mandate in due course. They expressed interest in being kept informed of the work of the Iraq Survey Group.

Middle East

On 12 September the Sudan, on behalf of the Arab Group and the States members of the League of Arab States, requested an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider Israel's decision "in principle" to remove President Arafat from the occupied territories. The Sudan circulated a draft resolution (S/2003/891) for the consideration of the Council members. The members of the Council met on 12 September, agreed on a statement to the press setting out their concerns at Israel's decision, and scheduled an open meeting for 15 September. The Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, Terje Roed-Larsen, opened the meeting on 15 September with a briefing. More than 40 delegations spoke against Israel's decision to remove President Arafat.

The Council members held further informal consultations on the draft resolution on 15 and 16 September but were unable to reach consensus. The resolution was put to a vote by its sponsors on 16 September but was not adopted because of the negative vote of a permanent member.

Europe

Kosovo and Serbia and Montenegro

On 12 September, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Security Council on the situation in Kosovo and the activities of UNMIK. Speakers expressed their support for the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo, Harri Holkeri, reaffirmed resolution 1244 (1999) as the basis for policy in the region, encouraged an early launch of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue and condemned the recent upsurge in violence.

Other issues

International Tribunals

On 4 September, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1504 (2003), by which it appointed Carla Del Ponte as Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for four years from 15 September 2003, and resolution 1505 (2003), by which it appointed Hassan Bubacar Jallow as Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for Rwanda for the same period, from the same date.

Justice and the rule of law: the United Nations role

The ministerial-level meeting of the Council on 24 September to consider the item entitled "Justice and the rule of law: the United Nations role" was addressed by Ministers for Foreign Affairs from 10 Council members. The Secretary-General offered to provide a report to guide and inform the Council's further deliberations. At the end of the meeting, the Ministers reaffirmed the vital importance of these issues in a presidential statement (S/PRST/2003/15).

A further meeting on the same subject was held on 30 September to give non-members of the Council an opportunity to contribute to the discussion. Twenty-five Member States made statements, as did the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, and the Legal Counsel, Hans Corell.

Annual report of the Security Council

On 19 September the Security Council adopted its annual report for the period from 1 August 2002 to 31 July 2003 and forwarded it to the General Assembly.

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-eight session
Agenda item 30
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 27 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 23 October 2003, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 30, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

03-58706 (E) 301003

Annex to the letter dated 27 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 2 September 2003 (A/58/340-S/2003/857, annex), I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 10 October 2003, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative to the United Nations and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/58/433-S/2003/991), which yet again contains allegations of violations of the "airspace of the Republic" and "of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia", and to bring to your kind attention the following:

In response to such false and pretentious allegations, I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be underlined that allegations of so-called violations of the flight information region or violations of air traffic regulations are invalid, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in our previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and illegitimate claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim by the Greek Cypriot side is divorced from the existing realities in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory on the island.

Attempts by the Greek Cypriot representatives, through often repeated false claims, to confer legitimacy upon an illegal administration will be futile for as long as the Turkish Cypriot people refuse to bow to its writs. What would indeed be conducive to a better climate on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop arrogating rights and responsibilities it does not legally have, and to cease all hostilities, including embargoes, towards the Turkish Cypriot people.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 30, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Reşat Çağlar
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations S/2003/1048

Security Council

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30 October 2003

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Letter dated 30 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith an updated copy of the reaction of the Government of Rwanda (see annex) to the final report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2003/1027, annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Stanislas **Kamanzi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

03-59000 (E) 311003

Annex to the letter dated 30 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Reaction of the Government of Rwanda to the final report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of the Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. The Government of the Republic of Rwanda welcomes the final report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2003/1027, annex). The Government of Rwanda is happy to note that the Panel has finally come round to the viewpoint expressed by Rwanda from the very beginning of this exercise. One, that trade carried out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, under relevant international and local laws and regional conventions, with taxes paid to the relevant administrations, including "rebel" administrations, is legitimate (para. 9). Second, that the exploitation of natural resources that does not benefit the majority of the Congolese people is not a new phenomenon, that it did not start with the establishment of the Panel, and we might add, with the presence of Rwandan Forces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between 1998 and October 2002, and that it will not necessarily end with the conclusion of the Panel. Its causes are mainly internal to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as the Panel finally realized.

2. The Government of Rwanda, however, strongly objects to the methodology employed by the Panel throughout its existence. Rwanda has been unfairly targeted for condemnation in previous Panel reports, based on hearsay and innuendo. Furthermore, the Panel has not been able to provide any documentary evidence to support its allegations against Rwandan companies and entities, despite repeated appeals from the Government. We note that whereas the Panel kept in close contact with the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo right from November 2002, they deliberately declined contact with Rwandan authorities despite Rwanda's formal request for dialogue in March 2003, repeated in May 2003. It was only in mid-September 2003, that the Panel visited Kigali and transmitted a few cases to the Rwandan Prosecutor's Office for investigation. These investigations by the Prosecutor will require access to the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is where the alleged breaches of the law took place. The Government of Rwanda has formally requested this access from the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and is awaiting a reply. Given the fact that the Panel produced its report less than a month after its visit, it is evident that by the time it came to us, it was in the advanced stages of completing its report. Rwanda was therefore denied the opportunity to complete its own investigations before the final report. We strongly object to the deliberate effort to tarnish Rwanda's image, while denying it the opportunity to defend itself. Rwanda believes that this is a serious breach of United Nations procedure, protocol, and due process, which can only serve to discredit both the work of the Panel itself and the whole United Nations system in general. Our respect for the United Nations leads us to strongly believe that the Organization, and its Security Council in particular, should not lend itself to partisan witch hunting against Member States.

3. This deliberate targeting of Rwanda is also manifest in the dichotomy between the Panel's final report, a public document, which, as we have pointed out, largely

reinforces Rwanda's position, and the Panel's private briefings to different members of the international community, in which they continue to make unsubstantiated allegations about Rwandan "opaque and discreet mechanisms and strategies for wielding economic control" in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, "discreet integration of Rwandan troops into the regular forces and militia of the Democratic Republic of the Congo". We demand that such allegations, made as late as July 2003, cease forthwith.

4. Rwanda notes that the Panel, in its final report, makes recommendations mainly to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Rwanda, therefore, would not like to comment on them. This should not be construed as total consent to the recommendations however. We feel obliged to comment on one very dangerous and very unfortunate recommendation by the Panel. The Panel recommends that the status of the Banyamulenge and other ethnic groups, such as the Banyarwanda in North Kivu and South Kivu should be addressed. The Government of the Republic of Rwanda wishes to remind the Panel that the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement clearly states that these groups are Congolese citizens. We further wish to remind the Panel that denial of some sections of Congolese society of their inalienable rights by successive Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was one of the major causes of the current conflict in the country. It raises great concern that the Panel would venture to make a recommendation on an issue on which it has no mandate, no expertise and which has not been the subject of its enquiry. The recommendation is gratuitous and dangerous, deserving of rejection and condemnation.

5. Finally, it is curious that, given its purportedly extensive network of informants developed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the course of its work, little or no mention is made of the exploitation of the resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the Ex FAR/Interahamwe in their different politico-military reincarnations. Everybody knows these criminals are in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, that they live off Congolese land and other resources, against the publicly expressed will of the different Congolese administrations, including the Government. Given that these groups are the root cause of the current instability in the region, we find the Panel's silence on the issue troubling.

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Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments; human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 27 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 22 October 2003, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 117 (a) and (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Umit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

03-58905 (E) 041103

Annex to the letter dated 27 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 9 October 2003 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative to the United Nations and circulated as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly (A/58/429-S/2003/982), and to bring to your attention the following pertinent facts concerning the matter.

The slanderous and politically motivated false accusations contained in the above-mentioned letter constitute yet another attempt on the part of the Greek Cypriot side to cast a shadow on the functioning democracy of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). The reality is that the TRNC has an exemplary record with regard to its pluralistic democracy and fully functional parliamentary system. Free local and general elections are conducted regularly every five years based on universal suffrage. As a matter of fact, the next general elections are to be held in December 2003. All shades of opinion across the political spectrum are represented in the TRNC through political parties, currently numbering more than ten, five of which are being represented in the Parliament. The fact that each and every political party can propagate freely its policies through meetings and affiliated mass media organizations, including the newspaper *Afrika*, provides clear testimony to the nature and quality of our democracy. The multiplicity of daily newspapers, private radios and televisions also propagate freely all political thought and opinion, subject only to the laws of defamation and libel, as in any other country.

Freedom of the press and freedom of expression, speech and assembly are being enjoyed to the full by the people of the TRNC, which upholds the rule of law, and such rights are enshrined in and protected by the Constitution of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Much to the dislike of the Greek Cypriot representative, these facts are attested to in the annual human rights reports of the United States Department of State, including the most recent one, released on 31 March 2003.

The Greek Cypriot representative's false pretence to be the guardian of the human rights of the Turkish Cypriots does not sit well. It should be recalled that with regard to the issue of human rights, the Greek Cypriot administration and its representatives are in no position to occupy any seat other than the guilty one, in view of its past record. The plight of the Turkish Cypriot people in the face of Greek Cypriot violence between the years 1963 and 1974 could not be better portrayed than by the passage included in the memoirs of George W. Ball, the then Under-Secretary of State. In a telegram to the then Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, he wrote:

> "The Government of Cyprus (Greek Cypriot Administration) are committed to a strategy which, after our discussion of the last two days, I think even they should believe is silly, of trying to neutralize Turkey by a Security Council resolution condemning aggression and guaranteeing territorial integrity. In this manner, they hope to eliminate the one defence of the Turkish Cypriot population, so that 'Government of Cyprus' can proceed happily with systematic genocide, without outside interference" (*The Past Has Another Pattern*, New York, 1982, p. 345).

In a similar vein, the then United Nations Secretary-General, U Thant, in his report to the Security Council dated 10 September 1964, stated, "the economic

restrictions being imposed against the Turkish communities in Cyprus ... in some instances have been so severe as to amount to a veritable siege" (S/5950, para. 222).

The Greek Cypriot representative, instead of trying to create confusion around non-issues, would better serve the international community by trying to explain his side's totally negative attitude and actions towards the steps taken by the Turkish Cypriot side aimed at enhancing understanding and mutual confidence between the two peoples. It would be recalled that following the outright refusal of the Greek Cypriot side of our confidence-building measures package of 2 April 2003, the Turkish Cypriot side has decided to proceed unilaterally with some of the measures contained in the package, among which was the facilitation of free movement of peoples between the two sides. Notwithstanding the fact that both peoples in Cyprus reacted positively to the bold steps taken by the Turkish Cypriot side, the Greek Cypriot administration remains steadfast in its effort to undermine and block the implementation of the measures with its anachronistic policies and its official statements made on a regular basis denouncing the measures. In this context, the Greek Cypriot authorities continue to discourage both Greek Cypriots and tourists from crossing over to the north, do not allow tourists to stay overnight in the TRNC and threaten the Greek Cypriots and others who choose to stay overnight with legal action, including fines and imprisonment. People who buy consumer goods from Turkish Cypriot shops in the TRNC are faced with difficulties on their way back to southern Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot press reports confirm that such goods continue to be confiscated by the Greek Cypriot police in spite of reactions from the public. A case in point is the deportation by the Greek Cypriot authorities of a tourist group composed of 50 or so third-party nationals from Larnaka Airport in southern Cyprus on 16 October 2003, on the grounds that they were planning to visit the north as well during their stay on the island. These are the real issues and concrete behaviour of the Greek Cypriot party which have to be addressed by all concerned.

On the other hand, it is true that the Turkish Cypriot people are willing and ready for a political solution in Cyprus as well as European Union membership, subject to respect for the law which provides that Cyprus cannot enter any union unless Turkey and Greece are both members. It is also true that the Turkish Cypriot people are also determined to make sure that their State, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, is not dismantled by any means and to continue protecting their inherent rights and interests at all costs instead of yielding to Greek Cypriot aspirations of bringing Cyprus under their domination.

It is saddening to observe the Greek Cypriot side in its old familiar guise. The failure of the Greek Cypriot leadership to reciprocate our each and every initiative in any direction has demonstrated beyond doubt that the professed political will of the Greek Cypriot party for a solution is nothing more than a political tactic aimed at misleading and deceiving the international community.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 117 (a) and (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations S/2003/1050

Security Council

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30 October 2003

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Letter dated 23 October 2003 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write with reference to my letter of 12 September 2002 (S/2002/1007).

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached supplementary report from Mali, submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

03-59458 (E) 141103 171103

Annex

[Original: French]

Letter dated 13 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the second report of Mali to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, submitted in application of paragraph 6 of that resolution (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Cheick Sidi **Diarra**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Enclosure

Report of Mali submitted to the Counter-Terrorism Committee pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001

Introduction

Mali, a State which has thus far, fortunately, been spared from terrorism and is by tradition committed to peace and believes in the virtues of dialogue, has long shown that it is determined to combat terrorism in all its forms, no matter who the perpetrators and leaders may be or what motives they may have.

This determination to combat all forms of violence, including terrorism, was reaffirmed in the wake of the unprecedented barbaric and criminal attacks perpetrated on Tuesday, 11 September 2001, against the United States of America.

Soon after these attacks, which were shocking in terms of both the scale of the damage they caused and the unusual manner in which they were perpetrated, the international community made the fight against terrorism its priority.

Thus, the General Assembly, deeply concerned about the multiplication of acts of international terrorism that endanger both the lives and well-being of thousands of innocent individuals and the peace and security of all States, adopted a series of resolutions to combat this scourge, three of which are cited below.

The resolutions in question are resolutions 1269 (1999) of 19 October 1999, 1368 (2001) of 12 September 2001 and 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001.

In the third of the aforementioned resolutions, the Security Council decided that all States should criminalize the wilful provision or collection of funds by their nationals or in their territories in order to carry out terrorist acts, but also that they should freeze funds and other financial assets or economic resources of the perpetrators, while refraining from providing them with any form of support, including the supply of weapons.

The Security Council also emphasized the exchange of information, the denial of safe haven and of the use of States' territories, the duty to bring accomplices to justice, the establishment of terrorist acts in domestic laws and regulations as serious offences with appropriate punishments, and controls on the issuance of travel documents and movements of persons.

Mali's efforts to combat international terrorism are in keeping with its respect for a certain number of principles. These efforts flow, first and foremost, from its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, no matter who the perpetrators and leaders may be or what motives they may have.

At the same time, the human, political and social problems that foster terrorism should be taken into account.

Mali believes that efforts to combat terrorism must show scrupulous respect for human rights and that no attempt at oversimplification should lead anyone to confuse terrorism with Islam or to view it as a simple clash of civilizations.

Long before the unfortunate events of 11 September 2001, Mali, true to its ideals of secular peace and dialogue, was a party to all legal instruments aimed at combating this scourge concluded under the auspices of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

It was thus out of conviction, not a follow-my-leader attitude, that Mali, soon after 11 September 2001, vigorously condemned the base and barbaric acts perpetrated against the United States of America and acknowledged the legitimate right of the American people to defend itself against terrorist organizations and their supporters while respecting the lives of innocent civilian populations.

Mali has always supported and continues to support a strengthening of cooperation with neighbouring States and within various international forums, particularly the United Nations, in order to combat terrorism more effectively.

On this basis, Mali, convinced that efforts to combat terrorism must involve both prevention and suppression, welcomes the action taken by the United Nations and hopes that the resolutions adopted following 11 September 2001 have laid the foundation for a permanent strengthening of the international cooperation which is essential for the elimination of this scourge; equally indispensable are dialogue and assistance to States through bilateral and multilateral channels.

I.

Mali has no agency specially tasked with combating terrorism, since activities to combat terrorism and curtail its financing require extensive efforts by all State services and by the financial system.

Mali is striving to prevent its financial system from being used to finance terrorism. It has taken a number of measures, including the application of international norms for combating money-laundering, with a view to ensuring that its financial system is fully compliant with its obligations to monitor such things as the identification of clients and economic beneficiaries.

Mali is committed to developing additional rules within the framework of such subregional organizations as the West African Monetary Union (WAMU).

A review is currently being conducted with a view to instituting the mechanisms and procedures defined at the seminar on asset-laundering in the States members of the aforementioned organization held in Dakar on 7 and 8 February 2002. The seminar also focused on the links between money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Naturally, it is understood that Mali, bound as it is by its international obligations and its commitment to promoting and maintaining international peace and security, does not provide any form of support to terrorism.

Since it is an offence in Mali to mount a criminal conspiracy, the judicial authorities systematically institute proceedings whenever reliable corroborating evidence is found that indicates that a criminal conspiracy has been mounted for the purpose of committing acts of terrorism.

Malian legislation severely punishes violations of the regulations governing weapons, and restrictions are placed on the bearing, sale and circulation thereof.

The revised Criminal Code will contain even more stringent regulations in this area.

At Mali's initiative, a Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons in West Africa was adopted at the twenty-first session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), held in Abuja on 30 and 31 October 1998. This Moratorium, which has elicited interest throughout Africa, led to the development of initiatives in other regions, especially in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and in the Horn of Africa.

To prevent acts of terrorism from being perpetrated, the Government of the Republic of Mali has set up a number of structures at both the administrative and judicial levels. These are:

- The Department of State Security, which is responsible for infiltrating extremist circles in order to gather valuable information about subversive projects so that appropriate decisions can be taken swiftly;
- The Malian National Central Bureau of Interpol, which is responsible for gathering and disseminating information about organized crime in general and terrorism in particular;
- The Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED), which helps to combat the proliferation of light weapons and the use of landmines in Africa.

Alongside these structures is the National Commission to Combat the Proliferation of Light Weapons, which has been established within the Office of the President of the Republic. One of the Commission's tasks is to collect and destroy light weapons throughout the country.

Mali scrupulously honours its international obligations as a State party to the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951 and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 31 January 1967, by granting refugee status to persons who meet the criteria set out in the Convention.

The National Commission for Refugees (CNCR) devotes particular attention to hearings on requests for asylum in cases where an applicant is suspected of involvement in terrorist activities.

The Commission, working through Mali's diplomatic representatives and the various offices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, conducts inquiries into the identity of applicants for asylum, their reasons for leaving their country and their means of arrival in Mali.

Under article 8 of Act No. 98-040 of 20 July 1998, concerning the status of refugees, persons granted refugee status may be expelled from Malian territory only for reasons of security or if they are sentenced to a custodial penalty for acts classified as crimes or misdemeanours.

However, such expulsion cannot be ordered, except where urgent considerations of national security and public order are involved, until an opinion has been obtained from CNCR, and the applicant is entitled to present his defence before the Commission, in accordance with article 9 of Act No. 98-040.

At the same time, under article 15 of this Act, refugees are forbidden from engaging in subversive activities that may undermine Mali's national security or in activities that are incompatible with the purposes and principles of OAU and the United Nations.

As a signatory to international security and judicial cooperation agreements, Mali cannot object to the extradition of a presumed terrorist if a third State requesting the extradition furnishes the necessary evidence.

If a request for extradition concerns a refugee, Mali is also prepared to acquiesce in cases where:

- The individual concerned has committed a crime against peace, a war crime or a crime against humanity as the term is understood in the international instruments developed to deal with these crimes;
- The individual concerned has committed a serious crime of a non-political nature outside the host country prior to being admitted as a refugee;
- The individual concerned has been found guilty of acts inconsistent with the purposes and principles of OAU and the United Nations.

To prevent its territory from being used as a base, Mali has taken specific measures by signing with the Niger, Algeria and Mauritania a protocol to combat terrorism and all underlying activities in the "no man's land" between them.

Within the framework of this protocol, an information bureau has been established in Tamanrasset to collect and disseminate all relevant information.

While abiding by the provisions of the Freedom of Association Act of 1 July 1901, the Malian authorities are legally empowered to deal with the activities of groups that break the law or disrupt the public order and seek to support terrorist organizations, even when such activities are presented as being of a cultural, charitable, humanitarian or religious nature.

Thus any group that has its basis in an illegal cause or is organized for illegal purposes, contrary to the law and public morality, must be dissolved. Dissolution takes into account not only the organization's official purpose as set out in its statute but also the objectives actually pursued by the group.

The procedures and mechanisms providing inter-State assistance to which Mali belongs, apart from the standard Interpol network, include the West African Police Chiefs Committee, which is a forum for exchanges of operational information in the context of efforts to combat terrorism in the West African subregion.

Mali has also created special units to actively fight terrorism. These include the Special Intervention Brigade, the National Police Anti-Crime Brigade and the Mobile Intervention Brigade of the customs authorities.

It should be noted that Mali is a party to a number of multilateral instruments dealing with judicial assistance and is actively developing a policy for the negotiation of new bilateral agreements aimed at strengthening and improving the legal framework governing such assistance.

Lastly, special emphasis is placed on training civil servants in general and police officers and customs officials in particular to permit the gathering and exchange of data and information.

Mali's efforts in this area focus on travel documents which are commonly used to apprehend persons under suspicion or wanted.

To this end, Mali has established two services within the National Police Department:

- The Office of Border Police Services, which deals with the issuing of passports and other travel documents. By computerizing all its activities the Office will be able to produce secure travel documents that meet international standards and monitor flows of persons across the country's borders more reliably;
- The Judicial Identity Service, which can conduct verifications and monitoring on the basis of travel and identity documents, fingerprints or handwriting (forgeries and counterfeits).

It should be noted that various controls are systematically implemented when travel documents are issued, and a personal appearance is required of applicants. These controls are chiefly intended to verify the civil status and identity of applicants, to place them on the list of wanted persons if necessary, and to issue to them the documents requested when appropriate.

In the area of operational information exchange, in addition to the internal procedures of various government departments, meetings have been held with some neighbouring countries with a view to gathering and disseminating information needed to combat suspected terrorist "dens" in northern Mali and the no-man's land shared by Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger.

An information bureau has been opened at Tamanrasset to facilitate rapid exchanges among the participating countries.

Joint patrols have been organized in an effort to halt trafficking in weapons of all types in the region. Cooperation in this area takes the form of multilateral and bilateral agreements for mutual aid and judicial assistance.

In this respect, Mali has acceded to the treaty establishing the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa, which standardizes, inter alia, recovery procedures, means of enforcement and the law pertaining to corporations and economic consortiums for all ECOWAS countries.

Mali is already a party to 15 international anti-terrorism conventions, including 13 concluded under the auspices of the United Nations, one under the auspices of OAU and another under the auspices of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Mali fully applies all the said conventions, protocols and resolutions, as illustrated by the answers to the preceding questions.

After 11 September, Mali set up a working group to coordinate counter-terrorism efforts which meets at least twice a month. It reports regularly on the results of its work to the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, all the Ministers whose departments are involved in combating terrorism, the Embassy of Mali in Washington and the Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations.

Mali has strengthened security measures around its accredited diplomatic missions, often by setting up barriers.

Security Council resolutions 1269 (1999), 1368 (2001) and 1373 (2001) have been widely circulated to all technical departments involved in combating terrorism and to the media.

The answers to this question have been provided under subparagraph 2 (c).

The first part of this question was answered in subparagraph 2 (c).

As to the second part of the question, in Mali, offences that could give rise to extradition are generally determined by the length of the sentence and not by their characterization and, furthermore, extradition is traditionally based on reciprocity.

United Nations S/2003/1051

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 October 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 22 October 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

The mandate of my Representative for Somalia, Mr. Winston A. Tubman, will expire on 31 December 2003.

Since his appointment, Mr. Tubman has been assisting my efforts to advance the cause of peace and reconciliation in Somalia through contacts with Somali leaders, civic organizations and the States and organizations concerned. Furthermore, since 2002, he is also actively engaged in efforts to support the Somali National Reconciliation Conference under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development that is ongoing in Kenya. He is playing an important role in coordinating the efforts of the international community in facilitating progress at the Conference.

Pending an agreement at the Conference and improvement in the security situation that would allow me to submit a proposal on the establishment of a peace-building office in Somalia and adjustments that may be needed to the mandate of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), it is my intention to continue the activities of UNPOS for the biennium 2004-2005 at the current resource level.

In view of this, it is my intention to extend the mandate of my Representative for Somalia until 31 December 2004. I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

03-59018 (E) 031103

United Nations S/2003/1052

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 October 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 28 October 2003 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 22 October 2003 (S/2003/1051), concerning your intention to extend the mandate of your Representative for Somalia, Mr. Winston A. Tubman, until 31 December 2004, has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the information and intention contained in your letter.

(*Signed*) John D. **Negroponte**
President of the Security Council

03-59030 (E) 031103

United Nations A/58/546–S/2003/1053

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 113
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Children and armed conflict

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution 1460 (2003).

2. The preparation of the report involved broad consultations within the United Nations at Headquarters and with country teams, peacekeeping missions, regional groups and non-governmental organizations.

II. Advances made towards the protection of children affected by armed conflict

3. In the course of the past few years, important advances have been made in the efforts to ensure more effective protection of children exposed to armed conflict.

4. Since 1998, when the issue of war-affected children was formally placed on the agenda of the Security Council, the progressive engagement of the Council has yielded significant gains for children. These include four resolutions devoted to the issue (resolutions 1261 (1999), 1314 (2000), 1379 (2001) and 1460 (2002)) an annual debate and review, an annual report submitted by the Secretary-General, the incorporation of child-specific concerns into the briefs of Security Council fact-finding missions, an important contribution to monitoring and accountability through the listing of parties to conflict that violate the rights of children and the stipulation for the systematic inclusion of sections devoted to children in country-specific reports.

5. Child protection has been integrated into the mandates and reports of peacekeeping missions and the training of personnel. A significant innovation has

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been the creation of the role and deployment of child protection advisers in peacekeeping missions.

6. The scope of international instruments has been strengthened and expanded. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which has been ratified by 63 States, sets an age-limit of 18 for compulsory recruitment and participation in hostilities and a minimum age of 16 for voluntary recruitment. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court for the newly established International Criminal Court (ICC), which has been ratified by 92 States, classifies the enlistment and use of children under age 15 in hostilities, intentional attacks on hospitals and schools, rape and other grave acts of sexual violence against children as war crimes. The International Labour Organization Convention No. 182 (1999), which has been ratified by 143 States, declares child soldiering to be one of the worst forms of child labour and prohibits forced or compulsory recruitment of children under the age of 18 in armed conflict. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which has been ratified by 31 States, is the first regional treaty to establish 18 as the minimum age for all compulsory military recruitment and participation in hostilities.

7. These instruments, together with the relevant provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the four resolutions of the Security Council, constitute a strong and comprehensive body of standards. In addition, a number of concrete commitments have been obtained from parties on the protection of children.

8. The central challenge now is to ensure the application of these standards on the ground.

9. Children's issues have been incorporated into peace negotiations and peace accords, such as the 1998 Good Friday Agreement on Northern Ireland; the 1999 Lomé Peace Accord on Sierra Leone; the 2000 Arusha Accords on Burundi; and the recent Accra Peace Agreement on Liberia. My Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict is currently working with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and non-governmental organizations to ensure the inclusion of similar provisions into the ongoing peace processes in Sri Lanka and the Sudan.

10. Over the past several years, my Special Representative as well as non-governmental organizations have conducted extensive public advocacy and awareness-raising activities. Today, there is broad public and official awareness about the plight of children exposed to armed conflict.

11. Non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups have played an indispensable role in the development of the agenda for war-affected children. They have developed global advocacy and significant operational programmes on the ground. International campaigns by networks of non-governmental organizations on such issues as child soldiers, small arms, landmines, and ICC have played a key role in strengthening international standards.

12. Working with Governments and non-governmental organizations, my Special Representative has developed important dialogue and cooperation with regional organizations, resulting in the integration of child protection into their advocacy, policies and programmes. Examples of the European Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) illustrate this experience.

13. In the context of European Union institutions, this cooperation has led to several important initiatives, including funding of projects for the benefit of war-affected children, guidelines for action on children and armed conflict and specific provisions for child protection and post-conflict rehabilitation in the Cotonou 2000 Partnership Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the States members of the European Union. The European Parliament has been engaged in active child protection advocacy, particularly in support of the campaign for the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

14. Over the past few years, ECOWAS has progressively integrated child protection into its policies and institutions, including the adoption of the Accra Declaration and Plan of Action on War-Affected Children in 2000, the establishment of a Child Protection Unit in the ECOWAS secretariat in 2002 and the endorsement by the ECOWAS summit in January 2003 of an agenda for action for war-affected children in West Africa, proposed by my Special Representative. The organization is now developing a framework for a peer review programme focusing on child protection, in collaboration with my Special Representative and UNICEF.

15. Similarly the protection of war-affected children has now been taken up for action by the Group of Eight, the Human Security Network, the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Organization of American States.

16. Many local initiatives for advocacy, protection and rehabilitation have been developed. My Special Representative has been advocating the establishment of national commissions for war-affected children, especially in post-conflict situations, to ensure that the concerns of children are fully integrated into priority setting, resource allocations, programme planning and policy making. Such a commission has now been instituted in Sierra Leone, and a Commissioner for Children and Young People has been appointed in Northern Ireland to fulfil a similar role. In 2000, legislation was enacted in Rwanda that would allow girls, who headed some 40,000 households following the genocide in that country, to inherit farms and other family properties. The "Sudanese Women for Peace", a non-partisan, grass-roots organization, was created to advocate for peace and children's concerns. In Sri Lanka, "Children as a Zone of Peace", a local network for advocacy and protection, was launched in 1998.

17. In efforts to end impunity for those involved in child-related war crimes, a framework has been developed for the protection and participation of children in judicial tribunals and truth-seeking processes. This has resulted, for example, in guidelines for the Special Court and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone, and relevant provisions in the ICC rules of evidence and procedure.

18. Efforts to curb illicit exploitation of natural resources, which rob children of their birthright, have gained momentum. The Security Council has taken concrete measures in connection with Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone. An important step has been taken in the campaign to stem trade in "conflict diamonds", with the establishment of the Kimberley Process certification scheme.

19. Children and young people themselves have become participants in this movement. War-affected youth have participated in the deliberations of the Security Council and other important forums. The "Voice of Children" project, an initiative

of my Special Representative, has been established in Sierra Leone under the auspices of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) to provide radio programmes for and by children. Similar programmes have been proposed for other conflict areas. Under the sponsorship of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, adolescents in war-affected countries have carried out research and advocacy on the impact of conflict on young people in Kosovo, Sierra Leone and Uganda. Local children's groups involved in active advocacy include the Colombian Children's Movement for Peace and the Children's Forum Network in Sierra Leone.

20. Efforts to mainstream the protection and rehabilitation of war-affected children are taking hold in many institutions and mechanisms, within and outside the United Nations. In post-conflict situations, children are now receiving higher priority, focus and resource allocation.

21. The recent ending of conflicts in Angola, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka represent a great relief for children who have suffered horribly from those protracted wars, even while the tasks of rehabilitation and healing remain daunting.

22. In spite of these developments, the general situation for children remains grave and unacceptable on the ground. Parties to conflict continue to violate children's rights with impunity. In the course of 2003, this trend has been underscored by the particularly tragic experiences of terror, deprivation and utter vulnerability faced by children in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Indonesian province of Aceh, Iraq, Liberia, the occupied Palestinian Territories and northern Uganda.

III. Follow-up to Security Council resolution 1460 (2003)

23. The present section provides specific information requested by the Security Council in paragraph 16 of its resolution 1460 (2003), namely assessment of particular violations of the rights of children; assessment of progress made by parties in ending child-soldiering; best practices in integrating the specific needs of children into disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, assessment of child protection advisers, assessment of negotiations aimed at ending the recruitment or use of child soldiers and specific proposals on ways to ensure more effective monitoring and reporting.

A. Assessment of particularly egregious violations and abuses against children in situations of armed conflict

24. Children continue to be the main victims of conflicts. Their suffering takes many forms. Children are killed, made orphans, maimed, abducted, deprived of education and health care, and left with deep emotional scars and trauma. Forced to flee from their homes, refugees and internally displaced children are especially vulnerable to violence, recruitment, sexual exploitation, disease, malnutrition and death. Children are being recruited and used as child soldiers on a massive scale. Girls face additional risks, particularly sexual violence. These egregious violations of children's rights take place in a pervasive climate of impunity. The nature and scope of the most egregious violations are described in the present section.

1. Killing and maiming of children

25. Children in war zones have been deliberately killed or maimed by parties to conflict, often in extremely brutal ways. During the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, thousands of children were massacred. In the massacres of Srebrenica in 1995, young Muslim boys were particularly targeted. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone carried out a systematic campaign of terror, which included cutting off limbs of both adults and children. In the Ituri district of the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, many children have been brutally killed or maimed by armed groups; at the end of 2002, for example, 24 children were summarily executed by the Mouvement national de libération du Congo (MLC) and the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-National (RCD/N) soldiers in Mambasa, and nine children were killed by the Union des patriotes congolais (UPC) soldiers in Nyankunde. In Colombia, an increasing number of street children, many of whom have been displaced from the countryside by war, have become victims of arbitrary killings, known locally as "social cleansing".

26. During the civil wars in Guatemala and El Salvador, there were widespread massacres and torture of children. In post-conflict situations in both countries, the easy availability of small arms, estimated at more than 3 million, has led to intensified violence and insecurity, with children and youth as the main victims. Some 370 children and young persons under the age of 23 were killed in Guatemala City during the first half of 2003, more than 100 of the victims, mostly street children were under 18, some as young as 12. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda has used killings and mutilations to terrorize the civilian population. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian Territories has reported that, since September 2000, over 400 Palestinian and 100 Israeli children have been killed and thousands seriously injured in the ongoing conflict.

2. Sexual and gender-based violence against children

27. Women and girls are especially vulnerable to sexual violence in times of heightened armed conflict. They are raped, abducted for sexual exploitation and forced into marriages and prostitution. Refugee and internally displaced women and children are especially vulnerable to sexual and other exploitation by armed forces and groups, and sometimes even peacekeepers and humanitarian workers.

28. Reports from Iraq and southeast Afghanistan indicate that fear of sexual violence is keeping girls out of schools. During her visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in May 2003, the Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator reported on the situation of over 250 women and girls in South Kivu who required surgical interventions to repair the ravages of rape. Similarly, in Burundi, hundreds of girls have been raped, either as a means of ethnic cleansing or because violators believe that children are less likely to transmit diseases.

29. There is a correlation between the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and sexual violence and the exploitation of girls and women in corridors of wars. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimates that rates of HIV among combatants are three to four times higher than those among local populations. And when rape is used as a weapon of war, the consequences for girls and women are often deadly. Armed conflict also exacerbates other conditions in which HIV/AIDS thrives, such

as extreme poverty, displacement and separation. Programmes for HIV/AIDS awareness, care and support in both peace operations and humanitarian programmes should be continued and strengthened.

30. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse has proposed six core principles to be incorporated into codes of conduct for all humanitarian workers. These principles have now been incorporated into codes of conduct in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and UNAMSIL. My forthcoming bulletin will extend the application of the six principles to all United Nations personnel.

31. The Rome Statute of ICC defines rape and other grave sexual violence as a war crime. Everything must be done to bring to justice those responsible for this particular war crime.

3. Abduction of children

32. The incidence of the abduction of boys and girls has significantly increased in recent years. Parties to conflict have used this practice in systematic campaigns of violence against civilian populations in such countries as Angola, Nepal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and Uganda. Abduction of children was prevalent in the conflicts in the 1980s in Central America, often leading to permanent "disappearance".

33. Children are often abducted from their homes, schools and refugee camps. They are exploited for forced labour, sexual slavery and forced recruitment and have been trafficked across borders.

34. Abducted children are subjected to brutal treatment and other egregious personal violations. In northern Uganda, LRA has abducted thousands of children and forced them to become child soldiers and to commit atrocities. The case of the girls abducted in 1996 from Aboke secondary school has particularly brought the situation of abductions in northern Uganda to the attention of the international community. In Colombia, the Ejercito de Liberación Nacional (ELN) and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) have kidnapped hundreds of children for ransom and as a means of terrorizing civilian populations; 215 children were kidnapped in 2002 and another 112 during the first half of 2003. In early 2003, the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Maoist) conducted large-scale abductions, mostly of school children. While many of the children were returned within days, others still remain unaccounted for, and some of the girls released have reported sexual abuse.

35. In Angola, the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) abducted many children during the long civil war. In Sierra Leone, in January 1999, over 4,000 children were kidnapped during the incursion of RUF and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) into Freetown; 60 per cent of those abducted were girls, most of whom were sexually abused. In the Sudan, there has been a long history of abductions, particularly by the *muraheleen* militia, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), and the former Sudan People's Democratic Front (SPDF).

4. Impact on children of illicit exploitation of natural resources in conflict zones

36. The illicit exploitation of natural resources, in particular diamonds, gold, columbite-tantalite (coltan) and timber, in zones of conflict, has a direct and significant bearing on children. This practice of plunder is deliberately robbing children of their birthright to education, healthcare and development. They are exploited as cheap labour and forced to work in unhealthy and dangerous conditions. Moreover, this has become a principal means of fuelling and prolonging conflicts in which children suffer the most.

37. My Special Representative has especially highlighted this connection, particularly in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone, calling for urgent measures to curb these activities.

38. Actions by the Security Council, which have included the application and monitoring of sanctions in Angola, Sierra Leone and Liberia, and mandated investigations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia, have made a notable impact. The application of further targeted measures by the Security Council would reinforce their impact.

39. The independent panels of experts established by the Security Council to investigate violations of these sanctions found that diamonds played a uniquely important role in perpetuating the conflict in Angola, and discovered in Liberia a strong link between the continued trading in conflict diamonds and trafficking in small arms by both the Government and the rebel groups.

40. The legacy of these practices continues even after the end of conflict. During his visit to Sierra Leone in February 2003, my Special Representative witnessed and highlighted the continued exploitation of children, many of them ex-child soldiers, as labourers in the appalling conditions of the diamond-mining pits in the Koidu and Kono districts. He has called for enhanced public advocacy and the development of viable economic and vocational alternatives for these children, whose situation has also been documented in a study by World Vision.

41. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds, which came into effect in November 2002, represents an important step towards curbing trade in "conflict diamonds". It is important now to agree on and establish an effective monitoring mechanism for the application of this scheme. Full implementation of the Kimberley Process would also entail legislation, periodic audits and a voluntary system of warranties by suppliers of rough diamonds.

5. Impact on children of illicit trafficking of small arms, landmines and unexploded ordnance

42. Most conflicts today are fought with small arms and light weapons. Their easy availability is directly linked to the dramatic rise in violence, the exacerbation of conflicts and the phenomenon of child soldiers. This is evident in the conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone where illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is financed by the proceeds from the illicit exploitation of natural resources. The trans-regional dimension of illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons has exacerbated the conflicts in the Great Lakes region. Data has been collected by United Nations agencies that connect trafficking in small arms to trafficking in children and women in southeast Asia, in particular in the border areas of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

43. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons not only impedes provision of humanitarian and protection assistance but also undermines peace-building and reconstruction efforts that aim to strengthen security and the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations, such as in Afghanistan, Iraq and Central America. To minimize the disastrous effects of small arms and light weapons on children requires coordination at all levels, as set out in the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Examples of regional efforts to address the issue of small arms and light weapons and their impact on children include the Southern African Development Community Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials, the OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the Andean Plan to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

44. According to the United Nations Mine Action Service, approximately half of the 15,000 to 20,000 annual victims of landmines and unexploded ordnances in 90 countries are children. In Colombia, about 40 per cent of mine victims from 1990 to 2003 were children. So far in 2003, in northern Iraq, the casualty rate due to mines or unexploded ordnances has increased dramatically, by 90 per cent. Children in Iraq have also fallen victims to unexploded ordnances and munitions abandoned by Iraqi forces in schools and residential areas. In addition, cluster bombs indiscriminately impact and debilitate civilians, in particular children. Landmines and unexploded ordnances impede post-conflict development and reconstruction, blocking access to land and other resources and posing risks to returnee and internally displaced children. Mine risk education and securing stockpiled munitions remain the most effective short-term solution to keeping children safe.

B. Assessment of progress made by parties in ending recruitment or use of children in armed conflict

45. Progress made by the parties listed in the annex and named in the body of my previous report (S/2002/1299) has been assessed with respect to whether they have engaged in dialogue with my representatives in the field, made commitments to stop recruiting or using children, ended the recruitment or use of child soldiers, developed action plans for the demobilization of child soldiers and have begun to demobilize child soldiers. I have also taken into account efforts made prior to the reporting period. At the end of the current report, I have annexed two lists: the first contains an updated list of parties annexed to my previous report and the second contains a list of parties named in the body of my report last year. Both lists include new parties that have been found to be recruiting or using children in armed conflict.

1. Information on progress made by parties listed in the annex to the previous report, including new situations

46. In Afghanistan, factional fighting groups continue to recruit and use children. The National Security Council issued a decree in early 2003 instructing the military not to recruit persons younger than 22 years of age. Over the past year, efforts by the United Nations country team have focused on supporting a child-specific component as part of the Afghanistan New Beginnings Programme. In preparing the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the country team has engaged in dialogue with local commanders and military units throughout the country.

47. In Burundi, a national child-specific disarmament, demobilization and reintegration structure, with a decentralized system of representation in the provinces and military units, has been established following the October 2001 agreement between UNICEF and the Government for the demobilization of child soldiers. Participating in this structure are Parti de libération du Peuple Hutu/Forces nationales de libération (PALIPEHUTU/FLN) faction of Alain Mugabarabona and the Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie/Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD/FDD) faction of Jean Bosco Ndayikengurukiye. Moreover, the Arusha Peace Accords of 2000 as well as the Ceasefire Agreement of December 2002 include provisions against the use of child soldiers. Despite these steps, all parties to the conflict mentioned in the annex of my previous report continue to use or recruit child soldiers. In addition, armed opposition groups have recruited children from refugee camps in the western part of the United Republic of Tanzania.

48. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, following the 2001 five-point commitment to end child-soldiering to my Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, both the Government and the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-Goma (RCD/G) developed action plans for the demobilization of child soldiers. Since December 2001, over 650 child soldiers have been demobilized through the National Office for Demobilization and Reinsertion (BUNADER) and the RCD/G Inter-Departmental Commission for the Demobilization of Child Soldiers. At the beginning of 2003, the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-Kisangani/Mouvement de libération (RCD-K/ML) allowed access to some camps and released scores of children to a local non-governmental organization, Let's Protect Children, for their reintegration into the community. Many cases of informal ad hoc demobilization of children by individual commanders have taken place as a result of advocacy efforts by MONUC, UNICEF, Save the Children (United Kingdom) and local partners.

49. Despite these developments, all parties mentioned in my previous report continued to recruit or use children. With the intensification of the conflict in the Ituri district of the northeastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (in May 2003), there was a significant increase in the recruitment and use of child soldiers by all parties to the conflict.

50. In Liberia, during the escalation of conflict in June and July 2003, there was a marked increase in the recruitment of children by all parties. Children were recruited from displaced camps by the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL). The Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) recruited children from refugee camps in Côte d'Ivoire, and the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) recruited children from displaced camps in Liberia and from refugee camps in Guinea.

51. The Accra Peace Agreement of 18 August 2003 provides for the protection and rehabilitation of war-affected children and calls upon my Special Representative and UNICEF to assist in mobilizing resources for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers.

52. In Somalia, all parties to the conflict continued to recruit children into their forces. According to a recent study, a large number of children have either carried a gun or been involved in militia activities. A local non-governmental organization — the Elman Peace Center — initiated a pilot project which rehabilitated and

reintegrated some 120 former child soldiers in Mogadishu; this project will be extended to Mogadishu, Kismayo and Merca.

53. Child-soldiering in Côte d'Ivoire represents a new development since my previous report. All parties to the conflict recruited or used children in armed conflict. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported on the recruitment of refugee children, in particular from the Nicla camp in western Côte d'Ivoire, and noted that these recruits became part of the *force supplétive* called LIMA forces, operating alongside the Forces armées nationales de Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI). The Mouvement pour la paix et la justice (MPJ), the Mouvement populaire ivoirien pour le Grand Ouest (MPIGO) and the Mouvement patriotique de Côte d'Ivoire (MPCI) all recruited or used child soldiers. In Bouaké, the identification of child soldiers is in progress, while in Man and Korhogo, UNICEF has set up committees for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers.

2. Information on progress made by parties mentioned in the body of the previous report

54. In Colombia, in December 2002, the paramilitary Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC) declared a unilateral ceasefire and stated that it would release all children under the age of 18 from its ranks. As of June 2003, 81 children, including 6 girls, were demobilized from AUC, through the Catholic Church as an intermediary. Since 1999, over 1,000 children have been demobilized from armed groups under a programme of the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF).

55. Despite these developments, approximately 7,000 children remain within the ranks of armed groups and an additional 7,000 children are involved in urban militias, many of which are associated with these armed groups. The Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), the Ejercito de Liberación Nacional (ELN) and AUC continued to recruit or use children as soldiers. Fear of recruitment has led many families to flee their homes in rural areas.

56. In Myanmar, children continue to be forcibly recruited by government armed forces and armed groups. UNHCR has documented cases of child soldiers fleeing Myanmar into Thailand. My Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict had planned to visit Myanmar early in 2002; however, this had to be postponed owing to developments in the country. The situation remains unchanged since my previous report, in which I cited the findings of Human Rights Watch (S/2002/1299, para. 42).

57. In Nepal, CPN-Maoist continues to recruit or use children. Following the ceasefire agreement signed in January 2003, many children were released without the benefit of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

58. In Northern Ireland, since the visits of my Special Representative in 2000 and 2001, attempts have been made to obtain commitments from the armed groups to refrain from recruiting or using children in the conflict. These efforts were hampered by the suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly in October 2002. Continuing competitive recruitment of young people by all paramilitary groups has been reported in the context of various feuds and the emergence of dissident groups.

59. In Sri Lanka, the commitments made in 1998 by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to my Special Representative, to stop recruiting children under the

age of 17 and using children under the age of 18 in hostilities, have been reiterated in the ongoing peace negotiations by the chief negotiator of LTTE. With the support of the Government of Sri Lanka and UNICEF, LTTE has now agreed to develop an action plan for children affected by war, which includes specific reference to this commitment. Although LTTE has advised all its officials to end the recruitment of children, and there has been an overall decrease in recruitment, UNICEF has received reports of new recruitments.

60. In the Philippines, reports indicate the continued recruitment and training of children by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the New People's Army (NPA) in contradiction of the NPA stated policy not to recruit those under 18. Similarly, reports indicate that the Abu Sayyaf group continues to recruit and use children.

61. After his visit to the Republic of Chechnya of the Russian Federation in 2002, my Special Representative reported that insurgency groups continued to enlist children and use them to plant landmines and explosives. This situation remains unchanged.

62. In the Sudan, although many child soldiers have been demobilized in the south since 2001, thousands of children remain within the ranks of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), many of whom have been re-recruited. Several thousand children are also serving with the South Sudan Unity Movement (SSUM). SPLM/A has committed itself to releasing a further 2,000 children by the end of 2003, and the Government of the Sudan has created a task force on the demobilization of children.

63. In Uganda, over the past year, LRA abducted over 8,000 children. This represents the highest level of abduction in 17 years of conflict. The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and its allied Local Defence Units (LDUs) recruit and use children. UPDF has also re-recruited children who have escaped or been rescued from LRA. In a UNICEF/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs screening, 120 recruits in the UPDF Lugore military training camp were reported to be children under the age of 18, some of whom had been demobilized.

C. Assessment of best practices and lessons learned

1. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

64. Children are uniquely vulnerable to military recruitment and manipulation into violence because they are innocent and impressionable. They are forced or enticed to join armed groups. Regardless of how they are recruited, child soldiers are victims, whose participation in conflict bears serious implications for their physical and emotional well-being. They are commonly subject to abuse and most of them witness death, killing, and sexual violence. Many participate in killings and most suffer serious long-term psychological consequences.

65. Although disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes are now an integral part of peacekeeping operations, the specific needs of child soldiers have not yet been sufficiently addressed within the overall planning and implementation of these programmes. While there is no single model for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of children, nonetheless, important lessons are

emerging from the experiences to date. The following overarching considerations should inform future disarmament, demobilization and reintegration for children:

(a) The demobilization of child soldiers should be sought at all times during conflict and special measures should be taken to prevent re-recruitment or reprisal;

(b) Children who escape, are released or captured from any armed forces or groups should not be considered or treated as enemy combatants;

(c) The protection and rehabilitation of children, including their disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, should be integrated into all peace negotiations and resulting peace agreements;

(d) In disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, separate and child-specific programmes should be organized for demobilized children; children should not be required to hand in weapons to be eligible for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and benefits;

(e) All children associated with armed forces and groups should be included in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. From the start of the process, there should be a clear definition of who is a child, and of the criteria for eligibility of children for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. Eligibility criteria should be broad enough to ensure that all children associated with fighting forces, including combatants, cooks, porters, messengers, "concubines" and camp followers, have access to the programme;

(f) In the interest of rebuilding a healthy society, reintegration programmes need to take an integrated community approach; interventions that single out former child soldiers may result in their being further stigmatized. In some situations, such as in Mozambique, traditional "cleansing" ceremonies to facilitate reintegration have proved very effective;

(g) Monitoring and follow-up of demobilized children are important to ensure successful reintegration and delivery of benefits;

(h) Local civil society groups, such as elders and religious leaders, play a vital role in negotiations for the release of child soldiers from fighting groups as well in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes; they should be provided with more support and resources;

(i) Child protection and rehabilitation is a process that goes beyond disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Donor support and commitment to longer-term community reintegration is required to prevent recruitment and re-recruitment. Progress for demobilized children must represent a viable alternative to military life;

(j) Special attention must be given to the specific needs of girls and their stigmatization, including those heading households, sexually exploited, combatants and those with children. Particular attention must also be given to the special needs of children with disabilities.

2. Child protection advisers

66. My Special Representative has continued to advocate for the deployment of child protection advisers and strengthening of their role in peacekeeping missions in order to effectively integrate the rights, protection and well-being of children in

peacekeeping and peace-building processes. The Security Council, in its resolutions 1314 (2000), 1379 (2001) and 1460 (2003), has expressed support for the role and deployment of child protection advisers. The role of child protection advisers is to ensure that the situation of all children affected by conflict is adequately addressed in peace missions, by promoting advocacy, mainstreaming, collaboration, training, monitoring and reporting. In doing so, child protection advisers work closely with the United Nations country team, in particular UNICEF. Currently, 2 child protection advisers are deployed with UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone, 10 with MONUC in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and 1 with the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI). One child protection adviser was deployed with the United Nations Mission in Angola (UNMA) until the close of that mission in early 2003.

67. Child protection advisers have been effective in mainstreaming child rights and child protection into the work of peacekeeping missions. In MONUC, child protection advisers have played a critical role in the adoption of a code of conduct for peacekeepers, provided guidance on quick impact projects and participated in the operations for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and repatriation and resettlement of ex-Rwandan combatants. In UNAMSIL, child protection advisers contribute directly to the mission's priority-setting and policy formulation; they advise the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on child-protection concerns to be raised in negotiations with the Government, fighting forces, the National Commission for War-Affected Children and other key actors.

68. The training of both military and civilian peacekeeping personnel in child protection and child rights has been a priority task of child protection advisers. In UNAMSIL, the child protection advisers have ensured the incorporation of child protection into induction training for all incoming force contingents, and instituted a comprehensive training of trainers programme and conducted joint training activities with human rights officers. In MONUC, child protection advisers participated in the training of military observers, United Nations civilian police and national police.

69. Child protection advisers have also been very effective in promoting networking and collaboration. Child protection advisers have worked closely with personnel from the military, human rights, humanitarian and gender sections of peacekeeping operations. In MONUC, child protection advisers participated in the investigations led by the human rights section. In UNMA, the child protection adviser ensured that children's issues were included in both the protection plan of the human rights division and the inter-agency human rights committee. In UNAMSIL, the child protection advisers have worked closely with colleagues from civil affairs, particularly in the context of the UNAMSIL Trust Fund and the UNAMSIL Personnel Conduct Committee.

70. Child protection advisers have also developed close working relationships with United Nations agencies, and child protection local and international non-governmental organizations. In MONUC, the child protection advisers have collaborated closely with local non-governmental organizations and church networks to obtain information on recruitment of child soldiers. In UNAMSIL, child protection advisers and UNICEF have worked out an effective division of labour based on comparative advantages, capacities and expertise on such crucial issues as juvenile justice reform and children's involvement in the transitional justice mechanisms. In UNMA, the child protection adviser was able to include the issue of abducted girls, the situation of girls in transit camps and the need for psychosocial

recovery in both the United Nations and non-governmental organization protection strategy for the country.

71. Child protection advisers have contributed to the prioritization of children's concerns, through advocacy, and enhanced monitoring and reporting by serving as interlocutors and facilitating the flow of information between the various components of the missions, the United Nations country teams and child protection non-governmental organizations. The work of child protection advisers has led to the greater and more systematic inclusion of child protection concerns in mission reports.

72. Child protection advisers have played an important role in ensuring the integration of child protection concerns into the policies and activities of peacekeeping missions. To consolidate these tangible gains and incorporate further child protection in all aspects of peace operations, serious consideration should be given to the deployment of child protection advisers in all United Nations peace operations. Where possible, child protection advisers should also be involved in aspects of mission planning, pre-deployment assessments and pre-deployment training.

3. Engaging in negotiations with parties to conflict

73. Over the years, United Nations agencies, particularly UNICEF, UNHCR and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, usually through their field staff, have undertaken ad hoc negotiations with parties in conflict, sometimes directly with local commanders, for specific humanitarian purposes. UNICEF has developed the concept of "days of tranquility" into operational arrangements for humanitarian ceasefires that allowed for activities such as immunization and feeding of children in zones of conflict. Similarly, UNHCR and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs have conducted negotiations to secure access and protection for vulnerable and displaced populations.

74. Since the establishment of his mandate, my Special Representative has developed a systematic practice of eliciting and obtaining concrete commitments from parties in conflict, Governments and insurgency groups. He has obtained some 60 commitments from 15 parties to conflict, covering concerns such as child soldiering, landmines, humanitarian ceasefires and access and abductions.

75. These commitments have become important benchmarks for advocacy, monitoring and follow-up by United Nations country teams and non-governmental organizations. In several situations, such as Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka, these commitments have constituted the framework for negotiating operational plans of action by United Nations country teams, particularly UNICEF, and peacekeeping missions. Despite the repeated calls of the Security Council and local pressure, many of the commitments remain unobserved.

76. There is extensive experience of negotiations and commitments specifically concerning ending recruitment and use of child soldiers. In Sri Lanka in June 1998, LTTE agreed not to use children under 18 in combat and not to recruit those under 17. In Colombia in 1999, during the visit of my Special Representative, the President announced an immediate end to all recruitment and discharge of soldiers under 18; by the end of that year, this was, in fact, realized. In Sierra Leone in 1999,

my Special Representative secured commitments from RUF to permit humanitarian access to and release of abducted children and child soldiers, while civil defence forces committed to non-recruitment and demobilization of child soldiers; these commitments were subsequently successfully monitored by UNAMSIL and UNICEF. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2001, my Special Representative and the Executive Director of UNICEF obtained commitment from all parties for ending child soldiering; MONUC and UNICEF have continued to follow-up on this commitment.

77. Several observations can be drawn from past dialogues with and commitments obtained from parties to conflict, concerning ending child soldiering:

(a) Commitments to end the recruitment or use of child soldiers should be part of child protection concerns included in peace negotiations and peace accords;

(b) Dialogue about child soldiers should take place, whenever possible, at all stages of conflict, with all parties concerned;

(c) More effective monitoring and reporting is needed to provide reliable information for action;

(d) There is need for more systematic monitoring and follow-up to Security Council resolutions and commitments made; this is best done by United Nations country teams and peace missions, who should develop effective frameworks for this purpose;

(e) When parties continue to violate the rights of children, in breach of their obligations and commitments, it is critical to apply graduated and targeted pressure. Such action is best taken by institutions and actors with necessary influence, such as the Security Council, regional organizations and concerned Governments;

(f) Establishing dialogue with parties to armed conflict is a long-term process, which requires gaining their confidence;

(g) The role of civil society actors, such as religious leaders, elders and teachers, is critical in sustaining community pressure on parties to comply with commitments and prevent recruitment;

(h) Commitments by parties serve as useful benchmarks and reference points for advocacy and monitoring;

(i) Subregional approaches and initiatives should be developed to combat child-soldiering;

(j) Separation of civilians and armed elements and the civilian character of camps for displaced persons should be maintained as important protection measures.

D. Proposals for systematic monitoring, reporting and action

78. In my previous report to the Security Council, I stressed the importance of embarking on the "era of application," encompassing the key components of advocacy, dissemination, and monitoring (S/2002/1299, paras. 3-6). In resolution 1460 (2003), the Council endorsed the call for the "era of application" and requested specific proposals on monitoring and reporting.

79. My Special Representative has devoted particular attention to these issues, and put forward the following proposals to ensure more effective monitoring and reporting within the United Nations system.

1. Standards constituting the basis for monitoring and reporting

80. A credible monitoring and reporting system must be based on specific and clear standards. In relation to the protection, rights and well-being of war-affected children, the standards to be applied have been set out in detail in section II of this report. These standards are specific and provide well-defined yardsticks for monitoring and reporting on the conduct of parties to conflict.

2. The most egregious violations to be monitored

81. A number of especially egregious violations against children should receive priority attention in monitoring operations. In particular, these should include: recruiting and use of child soldiers; killing and maiming of children; rape and other grave sexual violence against children; illicit exploitation of natural resources; abduction of children; and denial of humanitarian access to children.

3. United Nations entities that should undertake monitoring, reporting and action

82. The proposals by my Special Representative are designed to facilitate the development of a monitoring network composed of various bodies and actors, each of whom brings the value-added represented by their respected areas of jurisdiction, competence and expertise, and to strengthen ongoing monitoring activities. The respective roles of the key United Nations actors are discussed below.

Security Council

83. The annual review and debate by the Security Council on this issue should be mainly devoted to a comprehensive review of the state of compliance on the ground. Its review should encompass all situations of conflict and the most egregious violations against children, as indicated above. In this context, the Secretary-General's annual report to the Council should serve as an important channel for conveying information gathered through the monitoring framework.

84. A similar review of compliance should take place whenever specific country situations are under consideration. In this context, the Security Council's stipulation for child protection sections in country reports should be fully implemented. In addition, the Council needs to receive, on a regular basis, country-specific information emanating from the monitoring framework.

85. Above all, information received by the Council should serve as trigger for action. Such action might range from calls for compliance, to condemnation of violations, to the application of targeted measures. In order to end impunity, it is critical that persistent violations lead to concrete measures by the Council.

86. Security Council fact-finding missions should include a checklist of specific compliance concerns in their briefs.

United Nations field presence

87. United Nations peace missions and United Nations country teams are present and active in virtually all conflict-affected countries and situations. Their presence, expertise and ongoing activities provide unique opportunities for advocacy, monitoring and reporting.

88. Advocacy, monitoring and reporting on child protection should constitute core functions not only for child protection advisers, but also for human rights officers and military observers in peace missions. Within the United Nations country teams, these functions depend particularly on UNICEF, UNHCR, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, with UNICEF, as the lead agency for children assuming a special role and responsibility. The capacities of the field offices need to be strengthened for those functions.

89. In carrying out their respective roles, a specific framework of collaboration, based on complementarity, should be developed between peace mission staff and the United Nations country team, particularly UNICEF, in countries with peace missions.

90. To facilitate these functions, child protection should be included in the mandates of all peace missions.

91. The United Nations field staff should work to strengthen local networks and capacities for child protection.

92. Heads of field missions should take concrete steps to ensure that country reports contain specific sections on child protection, in accordance with the stipulation of Security Council resolution 1460 (2003).

93. Specific initiatives and steps need to be taken by United Nations field staff to ensure effective follow-up to specific Security Council resolutions and concrete commitments made by parties.

94. Field manuals should have sections devoted to child protection and monitoring.

United Nations human rights regime

95. The United Nations human rights regime provides an important monitoring and reporting framework that should be used with a more systematic and stronger focus on issues of child protection.

96. Whenever special rapporteurs prepare reports on particular war-affected countries, they should include sections on egregious child rights violations. It is also important that they apply the standards and norms as a basis for proactive advocacy for child rights protection.

97. The Committee on the Rights of the Child should use the occasions of country reports and reviews to promote monitoring and accountability.

98. The Commission on Human Rights should use the various fact-finding mechanisms as well as its annual deliberations and resolutions, to promote advocacy and demand accountability.

International Criminal Court

99. The establishment of ICC is important both for deterrence and the prospect of actual prosecution. The deterrence role of ICC needs to be actively promoted through proactive advocacy and public information.

100. Concrete steps should be taken to ensure the earliest possible prosecution of persons responsible for war crimes against children.

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

101. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict has a key role in facilitating and coordinating the establishment of a monitoring and reporting mechanism:

(a) Conducting consultations with all stakeholders with a view to establishing an appropriate mechanism;

(b) Ensuring significant inclusion of monitoring information in the annual reports on children and armed conflict, addressed to the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights;

(c) Monitoring and follow-up on specific Security Council resolutions and concrete commitments, in particular in the context of field visits;

(d) Outreach for broad dissemination of the standards;

(e) Promoting mainstreaming activities on the protection and rehabilitation of war-affected children, within key institutions and mechanisms, to ensure long-term sustainability.

102. In conformity with the specific request of the Security Council, the roles outlined above have been confined to United Nations-based actors. An effective and concerted monitoring system will necessarily engage important participants outside the United Nations system; in particular, the roles and contributions of national governments, regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations and various civil society actors, will be crucial to the success of this enterprise.

103. An effective monitoring mechanism, which must lead to action, is at the core of the "era of application" campaign. The proposals above have been put forward as a basis for broad consultations among stakeholders. In particular, it is crucial to develop a coordinated framework to ensure the effective flow, integration and reporting on information gathered.

104. The development of these proposals will constitute a particular priority and focus for my Special Representative, devoting his advocacy, convening, and reporting functions to facilitating the translation of these ideas into a systematic, integrated monitoring and reporting mechanism.

E. Recommendations

105. In order to deepen and render sustainable progress achieved to date, and to strengthen the foundation for the "era of application", it is critical to put in place several measures, including the following:

(a) Children's issues should be systematically incorporated into all peace negotiations and peace accords and should constitute a central component of post-conflict programmes;

(b) Child protection should systematically be included in the mandates of all United Nations peace operations;

(c) It is critical to develop a systematic and concerted monitoring and reporting mechanism, to provide objective, regular and accurate reports on violations committed against children by parties to conflict;

(d) In order to incorporate and mainstream child-protection into all aspects of peace operations, serious consideration should be given to the deployment of child protection advisers in every peace operation;

(e) Regional organizations should be encouraged to strengthen their activities for war-affected children, particularly advocacy, cross-border initiatives, monitoring and peer-review;

(f) Targeted measures should be taken against parties responsible for and other actors complicit in illicit exploitation of natural resources. In this context, it is important to establish an effective monitoring mechanism for the application of the certification scheme under the "Kimberley Process";

(g) The Security Council should take concrete steps where insufficient or no progress has been made by parties in accordance with its resolutions 1379 (2001) and 1460 (2003). Such measures could include the imposition of travel restrictions on leaders and their exclusion from any governance structures and amnesty provisions, a ban on the export or supply of small arms, a ban on military assistance, and restriction on the flow of financial resources to the parties concerned;

(h) The listing of parties that recruit or use children in armed conflict should be updated annually and include all situations where such practice persists;

(i) Specific steps should now be taken to ensure that persons responsible for crimes against children will be among the first to be prosecuted in ICC;

(j) Greater and more concerted efforts should be deployed to end ongoing conflicts, which are destroying the lives of millions of children, and to addressing the key factors that facilitate the occurrence and recurrence of conflicts.

Annex I

Updated list of parties to armed conflict that recruit or use children in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council

The situation in Afghanistan

Factional fighting groups

The situation in Burundi

1. Forces armées burundaises (FAB)
2. Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie/Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD/FDD)
   (a) Wing of Pierre Nkurunziza[a]
   (b) Wing of Jean Bosco Ndayikengurukiye[a]
3. Parti de libération du peuple Hutu/Forces nationales de libération (PALIPEHUTU/FNL)
   (a) Wing of Agaton Rwasa[a]
   (b) Wing of Alain Mugabarabona[a]

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

1. Forces armées nationales de Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI)[a]
2. Mouvement pour la paix et la justice (MPJ)[a]
3. Mouvement populaire ivoirien pour le Grand Ouest (MPIGO)[a]
4. Mouvement patriotique de Côte d'Ivoire (MPCI)[a]

The situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. Forces armées congolaises (FAC)
2. Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-Goma (RCD/G)
   Local defence forces associated with RCD/G[a]
3. Mouvement national de libération du Congo (MLC)
4. Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-Kisangani/Mouvement de libération (RCD-K/ML)
5. Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-National (RCD-N)
6. Hema militias
   (a) Union des patriotes congolais (UPC)
   (b) Parti pour l'unité et la sauvegarde du Congo (PUSIC)[a]

[a] New parties.

7. Lendu/Ngiti militias
   (a) Front nationaliste et intégrationaliste (FNI) (Lendu)[a]
   (b) Front populaire pour la réconciliation de l'Ituri (FPRI) (Ngiti)[a]
8. Forces armées populaires congolaises (FAPC)[a]
9. Mai-Mai
10. Mudundu-40[a]
11. Masunzu's Forces
12. Ex-Forces armées rwandaises (ex-FAR) and Interahamwe

The situation in Liberia

1. Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL)
2. Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD)
3. Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL)[a]

The situation in Somalia

1. Transitional National Government
2. Juba Valley Alliance
3. Somali Reconciliation and Restoration Council
4. Rahanwein Resistance Army (RRA)

Annex II

Other parties to armed conflict that recruit or use children in armed conflict

Republic of Chechnya of the Russian Federation

1. Chechen insurgency groups

Colombia

1. Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC)
   (a) Autodefensas Unidas del Sur del Casanare (AUSC)
   (b) Autodefensas Campesinas de Córdoba y Uraba (ACCU)
   (c) Autodefensas de Magdalena Medio (ACMM)[a]
   (d) Autodefensas del Meta[a]
2. Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC)
3. Ejercito de Liberación Nacional (ELN)

Myanmar

1. Tatmadaw Kyi (government army)[a]
2. Karen National Union (KNU)[a]
3. Karenni National Liberation Army (KNLA)

Nepal

1. Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-Maoist)

Northern Ireland

1. Paramilitary groups

Philippines

1. New People's Army (NPA)
2. Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)
3. Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)
4. Abu Sayyaf

Sri Lanka

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

[a] New parties.

Sudan

1. Government-allied militia, the South Sudan Unity Movement (SSUM)[a]
2. Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A)

Uganda

1. Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF)[a]

   Local Defence Units (LDUs) allied to UPDF[a]
2. Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)

United Nations S/2003/1054

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 November 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 28 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the murder in Abidjan of Radio France Internationale reporter, Jean Hélène, issued on 27 October 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

03-59537 (E) 051103

Annex to the letter dated 28 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the murder in Abidjan of Radio France Internationale reporter, Jean Hélène, issued on 27 October 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The EU vigorously condemns the cowardly murder in Abidjan of Radio France Internationale journalist, Jean Hélène, and presents its sincerest condolences to his family and to the editorial staff of RFI.

The EU appreciates the efforts made by the Ivorian authorities to bring the author of this crime to justice and calls for a swift, full and effective investigation into the circumstances surrounding the journalist's murder so that justice can be seen to be done. The EU considers it a matter of urgency that the authorities re-establish control over the security forces, in compliance with the rule of law. The Presidency urges the Ivorian authorities to take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and physical integrity of foreign nationals and to protect Ivorian and foreign journalists.

The EU renews the calls made in its statement of 22 September 2003 and appeals to all the political forces, the institutions, the media and the people of Côte d'Ivoire to oppose every form of violence and the use of force and to return to the path of peaceful dialogue, cooperation and social reconciliation.

The EU hopes that the tragic death of a journalist while doing his job will not cause further divisions but that on the contrary it may be an opportunity for Côte d'Ivoire to unite in the process of national reconciliation based on the Linas-Marcoussis Agreements, so that Ivorians can immediately begin working in harmony for the reunification of the country and the preparation of peaceful democratic elections in 2005.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.

United Nations S/2003/1055

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 October 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 31 October 2003 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I have the honour to inform you that the Security Council held an open debate on 29 October 2003 on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Thirty-seven speakers expressed their views on the issue.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and the summary of the views expressed (see annex I), along with answers to the question posed during the meeting to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (see annex II), circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) John D. **Negroponte**
President of the Security Council

03-59526 (E) 041103

Annex I

Summary by Ambassador Negroponte, United States representative to the United Nations, in his national capacity, of the open debate on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on 29 October 2003

The Security Council held an open debate on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women, peace and security, on 29 October 2003. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, briefed the Council on the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to implement the resolution. Amy Smythe, Senior Gender Adviser for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo provided the Council with an operational perspective of the implementation of the resolution and spoke about lessons learned and remaining challenges.

At the request of Member States and the group of friends of resolution 1325 (2000), the United States of America has compiled the summary of key points below. While not comprehensive, this list represents our understanding of the main messages that came out of the discussion on 29 October.

(a) Council Members and non-members alike acknowledged that progress has been made towards implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). However, many speakers commented that much more needs to be done before it can be said that a gender perspective has been incorporated into all United Nations work and that the resolution has been fully implemented;

(b) There was an understanding that progress must be made by the Security Council, Member States, parties to conflict and the Secretariat;

(c) Speakers called for better follow-up and made a number of suggestions on how to achieve it, including the possibility of naming a Security Council member to be responsible for tracking implementation;

(d) Speakers acknowledged the important role played by the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and by the United Nations Development Fund for Women;

(e) Speakers acknowledged the valuable role that civil society actors and non-governmental organizations have played, and will continue to play, in advancing implementation;

(f) The value of bringing a field perspective to Council discussions was stressed;

(g) Security Council members acknowledged that the Council needs to do more to include references to gender, where appropriate, in its resolutions, mission mandates and trip reports, as well as to meet with women in the field when travelling on council missions;

(h) Speakers noted the need for more women to serve as peacekeepers, military observers and civilian police and understood their national responsibilities to identify and nominate women for these critical duties;

(i) It was also emphasized that the Secretariat must do better at assigning women to senior positions, including as special representatives of the Secretary-General and deputy special representatives. A number of States highlighted that there is only one woman currently serving as a special representative and noted that the level of participation by women is not acceptable. Speakers also recognized the responsibility of Member States to recommend qualified women as candidates for these senior posts;

(j) Member States positively acknowledged that the Gender Adviser post in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had been filled on an interim basis but stressed the importance of the post being filled on a permanent basis as quickly as possible;

(k) Speakers also appreciated the importance of the role that full-time gender advisers in the field play in making real progress on gender mainstreaming. Several speakers also called for gender advisers to be assigned to all peacekeeping missions;

(l) Speakers emphasized the importance of gender training for United Nations peacekeeping personnel. It was also noted that States that contribute civilian police, military observers and peacekeeping forces should provide pre-deployment briefings on gender awareness;

(m) Several speakers noted the important role that regional organizations can play in helping to implement resolution 1325 (2000);

(n) Speakers noted the need for more systematic documentation of the role that women have played in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts;

(o) Member States acknowledged the important contributions that the Secretary-General's report and the report of the independent panel of experts have provided to efforts to advance implementation and indicated that they were looking forward to the presentation of the Secretary-General's 2004 report.

Annex II

Letter dated 31 October 2003 from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations addressed to the President of the Security Council

During the open meeting on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) (women, peace and security), you requested that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations prepare written answers to questions raised during the afternoon part of the meeting.

To this end, please find attached the questions raised by Member States in the afternoon of 29 October regarding peacekeeping operations, with accompanying answers (see enclosure). The first three questions, raised by Australia, were addressed to the United Nations Secretariat as a whole; you may wish to request inputs directly from the other departments.

(*Signed*) Jean-Marie **Guéhenno**
Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

Enclosure

Questions raised by Member States during the open meeting on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on 29 October 2003

Questions raised by Australia and addressed to the United Nations Secretariat

1. What are the main hurdles in achieving the implementing of resolution 1325 (2000) in current peacekeeping operations?

Some of the main hurdles in achieving the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in current peacekeeping operations relate to the low number of women personnel in missions, lack of structures to mainstream gender and poor understanding among staff of how to integrate a gender dimension in their daily work.

Women currently represent one third of all professional staff in peacekeeping missions, and the number of women decreases with increasing seniority. This is a problem that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is addressing in-house. However, we recognize that we need to be more effective in the coming year in identifying suitable women candidates for senior positions and in recruiting Professional-level women in missions. It is hoped that Member States will continue their efforts to provide more women civilian police and military personnel to peacekeeping operations. Member States also need to include women and men with experience in gender-based crimes to help us address the high rates of violence against women that are common in post-conflict situations.

Multidimensional missions with gender experts, such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Kosovo, have made significant achievements in implementing resolution 1325 (2000). The hurdles that such missions are facing relate more to their work with outside partners and the challenge of helping such partners move beyond paper commitments to concrete implementation of the resolution. To strengthen systems to mainstream gender at the mission level, the Department will establish in the year to come a network of gender focal points.

The Department is currently producing a number of guidelines on how to integrate a gender perspective in the different functional areas of its peacekeeping operations. This should help staff take account of gender issues in their day-to-day work. To this end, a gender resource package is in the final stages of being developed. It will cover a wide range of topics, from general information on gender concepts and practical checklists highlighting gender issues in peacekeeping to guidelines on establishing gender units in the field. In addition, in the coming year we will produce a field manual on gender issues for military commanders, as well as one on gender issues in mine action.

2. Has the United Nations Secretariat put into place any institutional mechanisms to monitor progress made in implementation of resolution 1325 (2000)?

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, which is coordinating United Nations agency efforts on women, peace and security. In addition, the Department

established an action plan to implement resolution 1325 (2000), which will be updated in the coming months.

3. **What efforts are being made to ensure that the recommendations in resolution 1325 (2000) are mainstreamed into the work programmes of all United Nations agencies that have a role in conflict and post-conflict situations?**

The post of Gender Adviser at Department of Peacekeeping Operations headquarters has been filled in the interim, while the recruitment process goes ahead. In addition, new missions, such as those in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, have planned for gender expertise among their staff. The network of gender focal points to be established this year will assist the Department in monitoring its progress in implementing resolution 1325 (2000).

Questions raised by Canada and addressed to Mr. Guehenno

4. **What are Mr. Guéhenno's views on the prospect of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations undertaking an initiative similar to that of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to facilitate a stronger integration of gender considerations in the activities of the Department?**

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations established an action plan to implement resolution 1325 (2000), which will be updated in the coming months. The review of the action plan will be completed after the Department has taken stock of current gender mainstreaming activities at Headquarters and in the field.

5. **We would be interested in further information on efforts undertaken to ensure that gender perspectives are mainstreamed in all training modules and not confined to gender-specific training modules. We believe this would contribute to tackling this issue.**

At present, the military Training and Evaluation Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has produced a lengthy generic gender and peacekeeping training module that covers a range of topics, including gender awareness and gender and human rights. These gender modules are currently part of a standardized generic training package for military personnel and civilian police, to be used in pre-deployment training in Member States. Discussions are under way with the military Training and Evaluation Service to ensure that the gender dimension is brought out in each of the other modules. This point will also be raised during upcoming planning meetings with the civilian training unit, which is designing a generic, standardized training package for civilian peacekeeping personnel.

6. **We would be interested in being informed on the follow-up action taken by the Secretariat to convene the meeting requested by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to discuss ways and means of meeting challenges in the areas of conduct and discipline and minimizing misconduct.**

Following a thorough review of existing policies and procedures on disciplinary issues for all categories of personnel, in July, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations provided all missions with an updated set of disciplinary directives. These cover the issue of sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as other

types of serious misconduct. In the coming months, the Department will review existing efforts to prevent and respond to sexual abuse and exploitation at the mission level, and to identify good practice for replication elsewhere. Following this stock-taking exercise, the Department will inform Member States on progress made and its strategy for addressing the problem of sexual abuse and exploitation at the earliest opportunity.

Question raised by Canada and addressed to Amy Smythe

7. **We would be interested in Amy Smythe's views on challenges she has faced in ensuring that information finds its way from the field to the Council.**

When the Security Council visited Bunia in the Democratic Republic of the Congo this year, they heard first-hand accounts from women of how the conflict had affected their lives. Many of these accounts left a deep impression on the Council members. However, the final Council report on the visit made only passing reference to how the conflict had affected their lives.

Request for further information from Indonesia

8. **We would like to have further information on plans to establish a database of gender specialists and women's groups and networks in countries and regions in conflict.**

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs have established an "eminent persons roster" to facilitate the identification of senior personnel for peacekeeping missions. In addition, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women taking lead roles, has been working on designing a database of gender experts. The roster of P-2 to P-5 gender experts would primarily be used by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations but would also be made available to other entities. The aim of the initiative is to improve the Department's access to gender expertise for peacekeeping operations. A total of 2,480 applications have been received so far for the generic posts under social affairs/gender from the P-2 to P-5 grades; these are currently under review.

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Security Council

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Letter dated 31 October 2003 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

In its resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, the Security Council called upon all States to report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee by 27 December 2001 on the steps taken to implement that resolution, and thereafter according to a timetable set by the Committee. In the declaration adopted by the Council in its resolution 1456 (2003) of 20 January 2003, the Security Council, meeting at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, stressed the obligation of States to report to the Committee according to the timetable set by it and requested the Committee to report regularly on progress.

In the work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for the ninth 90-day period, the Committee urged all States that had not submitted their reports on time to submit them as soon as possible in fulfilment of the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001). The work programme further indicated the intention of the Chairman of the Committee to write to the Security Council by 31 October with the list of States late in submitting their reports.

A total of fifty-eight States, listed in the annex to the present letter, have failed to meet the 31 October deadline for the submission of outstanding second and third reports.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee will continue to be in contact with the States concerned and remains available to discuss any aspect of the submission of the reports requested of them, as well as any assistance that may be required. The Committee continues to be of the view that submitting reports in a timely manner is the best way for States to find the assistance they may need to implement resolution 1373 (2001). The Committee and its subcommittees, as well as its experts, stand ready to offer assistance and guidance to States in their implementation of the resolution, as well as in their submission of reports to the Committee. The Committee, subcommittees and experts can be contacted through the Committee Secretary (tel. (212) 963-3520 or (212) 457-1266; fax: (212) 457-4041; e-mail: ctc@un.org).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

03-59396 (E) 031103

Annex

List of late reports[a]

1. Member States late in submitting their second report (26)

Benin (8 November 2002)
Bhutan (20 August 2002)
Botswana (24 June 2002)
Burundi (24 July 2002)
Cape Verde (20 August 2002)
Central African Republic (15 August 2003)
Comoros (23 January 2003)
Dominica (29 September 2003)
Equatorial Guinea (10 October 2003)
Eritrea (27 November 2002)
Gambia (17 October 2003)
Ghana (23 January 2003)
Honduras (30 August 2002)
Kiribati (23 January 2003)
Lesotho (27 December 2002)[b]
Liberia (10 October 2003)
Malawi (27 November 2002)
Maldives (2 December 2002)
Micronesia (Federated States of) (2 December 2002)
Palau (2 December 2002)
Saint Lucia (11 July 2003)
Solomon Islands (25 February 2003)
Somalia (24 June 2002)
Togo (21 June 2003)
United Republic of Tanzania (23 January 2003)
Zambia (27 December 2002)

2. Non-Member States late in submitting their second report (1)

Niue (2 December 2002)

3. Member States late in submitting their third report (31)

Afghanistan (10 October 2003)
Albania (25 February 2003)
Andorra (7 July 2003)
Angola (29 September 2003)
Azerbaijan (7 July 2003)
Bahamas (10 October 2003)
Bangladesh (11 July 2003)
Ethiopia (28 July 2003)
Fiji (17 October 2003)
Georgia (7 July 2003)
Grenada (15 March 2003)
Jordan (2 September 2003)

[a] Date in brackets denotes due date of report.
[b] On 1 April 2003, Lesotho submitted a partial second report.

Kenya (27 October 2003)
Latvia (17 July 2003)
Malta (2 September 2003)
Mongolia (17 July 2003)
Morocco (30 January 2003)
Myanmar (11 July 2003)
Namibia (27 October 2003)[a]
Nauru (8 September 2003)
Nepal (17 October 2003)
Nigeria (8 September 2003)
Qatar (10 October 2003)
Senegal (15 August 2003)
Slovenia (7 July 2003)
Sweden (15 August 2003)
Tajikistan (10 October 2003)
Trinidad and Tobago (17 July 2003)
Ukraine (8 September 2003)
Uruguay (7 July 2003)
Viet Nam (29 September 2003)

[a] In a letter dated 17 October 2003, Namibia requested an extension of the deadline for submission of its third report.